



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety

Office of the State Fire Marshal

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*******SMOKE DETECTORS*******

Regardless of the season, everyone should have a working smoke detector in their home, on every level. The risk of death by fire increases dramatically in homes where smoke detectors, are either not present or not working. Recent research has also determined that the life expectancy of a smoke detector (AC powered or battery) is only about ten years. If the smoke detectors in your home are older than ten years, we recommend that they be changed regardless of how they are working.

The need for interconnection is to hear the smoke detector alarm, on all levels, when one smoke detector alarms, they all do. State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan asks that you think about this, would you hear a detector sounding from a fire in the basement if you were asleep on the second floor. Degnan states with interconnected smoke detectors on every level it increases the probability that you will hear the alarm in time to evacuate and survive.

The new technology that creates interconnection by wireless methods reduces the cost and difficulty of installation, in our existing homes that do not presently have interconnected smoke detectors on every level and in every bedroom.

The smoke detector options recommended are:

- All 120 volt electrically powered with battery back up that is interconnected by the wiring (required in all new homes) or
- 120 volt electrically powered with battery back up interconnected by wireless method or
- All 9-volt battery powered that are interconnected by wireless method.

Test your smoke detectors at least once per month. Vacuum them at least once per year. Also when you change your clocks change your batteries.

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!

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